

Decline of Medieval Urban Symbols of Power: Tower Houses in Trogir, Croatia

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Abstract

The paper analyses the diminishment of the importance and significance of the medieval tower houses in Trogir caused by social, political, and economic changes as well as by the urban development and the changes in the city defence system. The findings suggest that the decline of the towers had already begun during the 13th century. Eventually it resulted in the preservation of only a few, who have, however, been subjected to subsequent remodelling.

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Introduction*

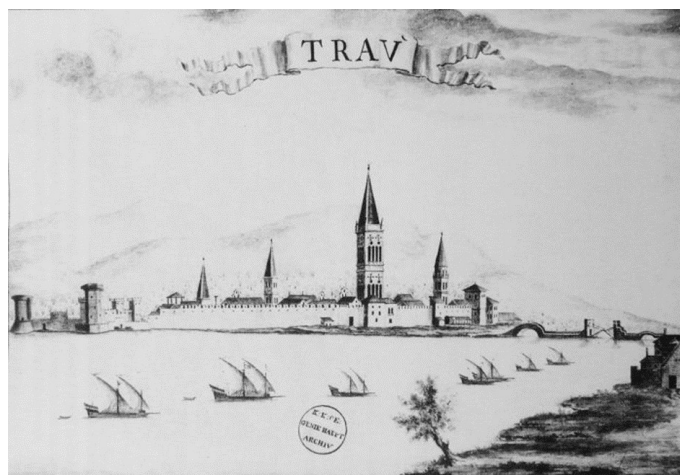
[1] The image of any medieval city implies high defence walls and towers rising above.¹ The southern prospect of modern Trogir still shows the medieval city wall

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¹ The survey of the phenomenon was conducted by Jacques Heers, *Le clan familial au Moyen-Âge. Etude sur les structures politiques et sociales des milieux urbains*, Paris 1974 [Family Clans in the Middle Ages. A Study of Political and Social Structures in Urban Areas, trans. Barry Herbert, Amsterdam, New York, and Oxford 1977]. On some common characteristics of tower houses in the region of Dalmatia, i.e. in Trogir, Split, Dubrovnik, Zadar and Rab, see: Zrinka Nikolić Jakus, "Privately Owned Towers in Dalmatian Towns

with the battlement and two square towers in front of them. However, the old city maps and vedute² (fig. 1, fig. 2), as well as historic texts³ testify to the existence of three other towers that were attached to the city walls. This evidence led to research into the processes that made those tall structures disappear, on the basis of the field studies of medieval residential architecture and the research of the archival sources.

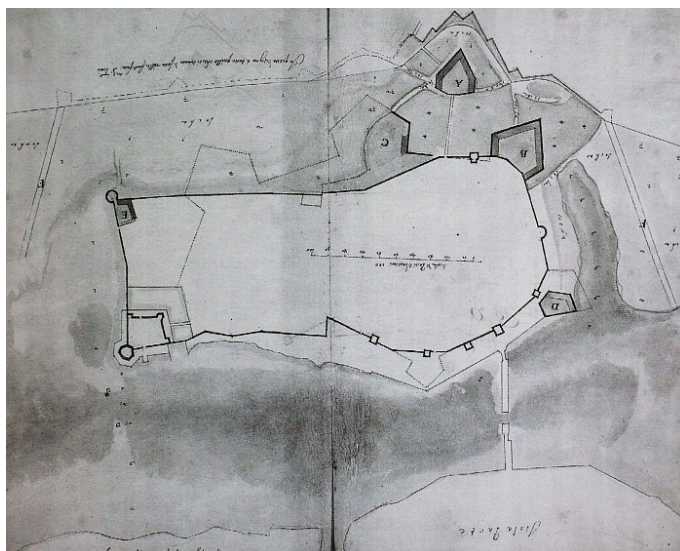


1 Giuseppe Juster, *Trau*, 1708, veduta (reprod. from: Vanja Kovačić, "Trogirske fortifikacije u XV. stoljeću", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 37 (1997-1998), 115)

during the High and Central Middle Ages", in: *Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages: Authority and Property*, eds. Irena Benyovsky Latin and Zrinka Pešorda Vardić, Zagreb 2014, 273-293. Other references to the abundant literature are omitted here because the aim of this paper is not to compare the similar aspects of the tower houses in Trogir and the cities of Dalmatia as well as in other European regions, but to provide a proper comprehension of the phenomenon.

² For Trogir city maps and *vedute* see: Giovanni Lucio, *Memorie istoriche di Tragurio ora detto Traù*, Venice 1674; Ciril Metod Iveković, *Dalmatiens Architektur und Plastik*, Textheft, Wien 1927, 16; Lukša Beritić, "Obalna utvrđenja na našoj obali", in: *Pomorski zbornik* 1 (1962), 217-263, here: 240-242; Ivo Babić, Kruno Prijatelj, Tomislav Marasović, Radovan Ivančević, Svetozar Vučenović, and Stanko Geić, *Kulturno blago Trogira*, Zagreb 1990, 23; Mirko Marković, *Descriptio Croatiae, Hrvatske zemlje na geografskim kartama od najstarijih vremena do pojave prvih topografskih karata*, Zagreb 1993, 62, 161, 273; Vanja Kovačić, "Trogirske fortifikacije u XV. stoljeću", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 37 (1997-1998), 109-136, here: 111, 113, 116; Andrej Žmegač, *Bastioni jadranske Hrvatske*, Zagreb 2009, 102, 104, 187; Andrej Žmegač, "Dva prikaza trogirskih utvrda iz XVII. stoljeća", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 42 (2011), 297-305; Svein Mønnesland, *Dalmacija očima stranaca - Dalmatia through Foreign Eyes*, Zagreb 2011, 40, 132, 195, 311.

³ Lucio, *Memorie istoriche di Tragurio*, 460-476.



2 Trogir's fortifications around the mid-17th century, from an atlas of the Venetian States. The city is still protected by the medieval city walls with towers, while modern bastions, improving the defence, are partly built and partly projected (reprod. from: Andrej Žmegač, "Dva prikaza trogirskih utvrda iz XVII. stoljeća", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 42 (2011), 303)

[2] Most houses in the city of Trogir were built during the 12th and the 13th centuries and still show the masonry techniques characteristic of the Romanesque period,⁴ although some older structures are preserved as well.⁵ Over the centuries, these buildings were remodelled and/ or embellished, and the main principle was always to retain most of the existing structures. During the research campaign five other towers were identified in the historic urban area as well as the remains of a sixth one. They are discernible as tall structures built on square bases. The study of archival material included the documents of the medieval communis Tragurii up to the year 1500. These are only partially preserved, but fairly continuously from the seventh decade of the 13th century onwards.⁶

⁴ In the 12th and the 13th centuries, a huge building campaign was launched during which the late antique cathedral and Benedictine church were dismantled and new Romanesque ones were built on their sites. On Romanesque houses see: Cvito Fisković, "Romaničke kuće u Splitu i Trogiru", in: *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* ser. III, vol. 2 (1952), 129-178; Tomislav Marasović, "Stambena kuća u Trogiru Radovanova doba", in: *Per Radouanum. Majstor Radovan i njegovo doba*, ed. Ivo Babić, Trogir 1994, 193-199; Danko Zelić, "Les maisons romanes dans les villes de la Croatie méditerranéenne (l'Istrie et la Dalmatie)", in: *L'habitation à l'époque romane. Actes du XII^e colloque international d'art roman*, ed. Bernadette Fizellier-Sauget, Clermont-Ferrand 2005, 279-299.

⁵ Ivo Babić, "Zapažanja o trogirskim crkvama Sv. Marije od trga i Sv. Martina (Sv. Barbare)", in: *Munuscula in honorem Željko Rapanić*, eds. Miljenko Jurković and Ante Milošević, Zagreb, Motovun and Split 2012, 273-301.

Residential complexes with towers

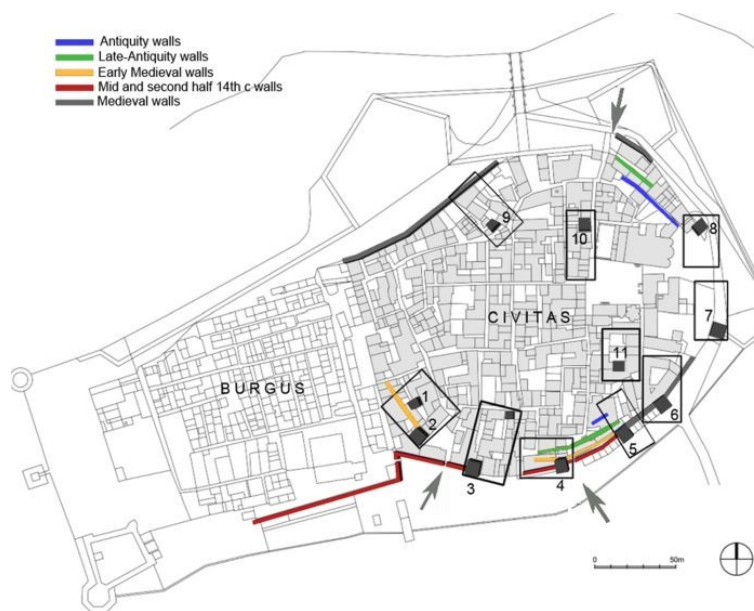
[3] Trogir is a city on the eastern Adriatic coast. It was founded in approximately 220 BCE and is situated on a small island between the land and the island of Čiovo.⁷ The antique settlement as well as the medieval city (*civitas*) occupied the eastern part of today's island. The archaeological excavations identified parts of the fortifications that were built in the age of Antiquity and again in Late Antiquity.⁸ Their spatial relation to the medieval defence walls shows that the city area was enlarged gradually (fig. 3), up to the beginning of the 13th century, when the medieval *burgus* started to develop to the west of the city,⁹ on the lands gained through earthworks.

⁶ The research included all preserved notarial and judicial acts. They are held in Državni arhiv Zadar [State Archive Zadar], within the fund "Arhiv Trogira" [Trogir Archive] (hereafter: DAZd, AT), and in Arhiv Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti u Zagrebu [Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb] (hereafter: HAZU). The complete transcriptions of documents from 1263 to 1331 as well as testaments from the 14th century are published. See: Miho Barada, *Trogirski spomenici, dio I., Zapisci pisarne općine Trogirske, sv. I., od 21. X. 1263. do 22. V. 1273.* (*Monumenta spectantia historiam slavorum meridionalium*, vol. 44), Zagreb 1948; Miho Barada, *Trogirski spomenici, dio I., Zapisci pisarne općine Trogirske, sv. II., od 31. I. 1274. do 1. IV. 1294.* (*Monumenta spectantia historiam slavorum meridionalium*, vol. 45), Zagreb 1950; Miho Barada, *Trogirski spomenici dio II. Zapisnici sudbenog dvora općine trogirске, svezak I., od 8. VIII. 1266. do 6. XII. 1299.* (*Monumenta spectantia historiam Slavorum meridionalium*, vol. 46), Zagreb 1951; Miho Barada, *Trogirski spomenici, Zapisci kurije grada Trogira od 1310.-1331.*, Split 1998; Marija Karbić and Zoran Ladić, "Oporuke stanovnika grada Trogira u Arhivu HAZU", in: *Radovi Zavoda za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Zadru* 43 (2001), 161-254.

⁷ Nenad Cambi, "Trogir u antici", in: *Mogućnosti* 10-11 (1980), 950-963.

⁸ Frane Bulić, "Ritrovamenti di mura antiche greco-illiriche a Traù", in: *Bullettino di archeologia e storia dalmata* 20 (1897), 136-137; Cambi, "Trogir u antici", 952-955; Ivo Babić, "Starokršćanski ulomci u Trogiru", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 25 (1985), 25-47, here: 32; Ivo Babić, "Jedna prostorna intervencija Ignacija Macanovića u Trogiru", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 38 (1999-2000), 305-338, here: 306-310; Ivo Babić, "Sjeveroistočni bedemi antičkog Trogira", in: *Grčki utjecaj na istočnoj obali Jadrana*, eds. Nenad Cambi, Slobodan Čače, and Branko Kirigin, Split 2002, 397-414; Vanja Kovačić, "Porta dominica i crkva sv. Dujma u Trogiru", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 34 (1994), 51-69; Vanja Kovačić, "Nuove scoperte nella Tragurion ellenistica", in: *Grčki utjecaj na istočnoj obali Jadrana*, eds. Nenad Cambi, Slobodan Čače, and Branko Kirigin, Split 2002, 375-395; Vanja Kovačić, "Riznica urbane arheologije unutar samostanskih zidina", in: *Benediktinski samostan sv. Nikole u Trogiru. Duhovnost i kultura u okrilju Virgines Dei*, eds. Vanja Kovačić and Jozo Milanović, Trogir 2014, 75-86.

⁹ Ivo Babić, "Počeci trogirskog predgrađa u Pasikama", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 39 (2001-2002), 123-148.



3 The tower houses in Trogir: 1 The Andreis Tower, 2 The Andreis Tower, 3 The Vitturi Tower, 4 The Cega Tower, 5 The Lucio 13th c. / Vitturi 15th c. Tower, 6 The Bishop's Tower, 7 The Municipal / Abbey Tower, 8 The Ursus Tower, 9 The Casotti Tower, 10 The Cega (Bive) Tower, 11 The Vitturi (Paitoni) Tower; the squares indicate the areas of the former complexes, thus it is not possible to determine their original perimeters; the arrows indicate the city entrances (in the background: the cadastral plan of 1830, digitalized by I. Valjato Vrus)

[4] By the beginning of the 13th century all the tower houses had already been erected. They were parts of bigger residential complexes that consisted of houses surrounding a court with the tower protecting them. The former were inhabited by servants and/ or used as warehouses, while the latter, the tower, was the residential space of the owners.¹⁰ These complexes were closed, with the buildings oriented towards the inner court, and controlled only by their proprietors.¹¹ The effective defence role of towers in urban tumults is known from

¹⁰ According to the similar complexes in other Dalmatian cities, especially Dubrovnik, Šibenik, Rab, and Cres, see: Milan Prelog, "Cres - građevni razvoj jednog malog, starog grada", in: *Radovi Odsjeka za povijest umjetnosti* 4 (1963), 7; Marija Planić-Lončarić, *Planirana izgradnja na području Dubrovačke republike*, Zagreb 1980; Marija Planić-Lončarić, "Zajednički prostori stambenih zona srednjovjekovnog Dubrovnika", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 12-13 (1988-1989), 65-75; Danko Zelić, *Postanak i urbani razvoj Šibenika u srednjem vijeku*, doctoral thesis, University of Zagreb 1999, 66, 92-93; Danko Zelić, "Public and Private Space in a Medieval Dalmatian Town", in: *Varia Arheologica Hungarica* IX (2000), 139-148; Dušan Mlacović, *Građani plemići. Pad i uspon rapskog plemstva*, Zagreb 2008, 120-122; Irena Benyovsky Latin, "Dubrovnik's Burgus of St Blasius in the 13th Century", in: *Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages: Authority and Property*, eds. Irena Benyovsky Latin and Zrinka Pešorda Vardić, Zagreb 2014, 295-326, here: 297-303. These complexes are recognized in Split as well, see: Igor Fisković, "Srednjovjekovna izgradnja i identitet grada Splita", in: *Kulturna baština* 19/XIV (1989), 28-50, here: 37-38, 40.

Thomas Archdeacon's chronicle that describes such events in the nearby town of Split.¹²

[5] In the southwestern, southern and eastern parts of medieval Trogir these large complexes occupied entire blocks of irregular, often trapezoidal shapes. They were built in the areas of older walls that had been demolished in favour of the medieval enlargement of the city walls. Thus these towers defended not only the private property of their owners but they were also part of the common system of fortification. In the central part of the city, the ancient regular street grid that surrounded the rectangular blocks was disrupted: The streets consequently narrowed and were often closed, sometimes turning into the private courts and sometimes completely disappearing under new buildings that joined the blocks. Some of these new buildings were, in fact, towers, protecting the complexes that were created by joint adjacent buildings and private courts made up of former streets.

[6] The structure of most of these complexes, with enclosed private courts or deep passages (i.e. open private spaces) within the blocks, can still be discerned in the contemporary urban tissue (fig. 3, the areas by the towers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11). Archival data recording the members of the same family as the owners of the neighbouring buildings are yet another proof of their existence. However, due to the incompleteness of the archival information as well as due to the rebuilding of the old houses and building of new ones in these private courts, passages and surrounding private streets, it is hard to determine their original perimeters. One of the complexes completely lost its court (fig. 3, area by the tower 4), but the court was repeatedly mentioned in the documents. We learn about two other complexes only through written records (fig. 3, areas by the towers 7 and 8), and concerning the Bishop's palace (fig. 3, area by the tower 6) two plans are preserved. Although some other similar structures can be discerned in the urban area, there is no physical or written evidence of the existence of towers in those blocks.

[7] These complexes with private towers are characteristic of the times before the consolidation of the City Council in the 13th century, and they ceased to be built afterwards.¹³ They were certainly erected by the most powerful members of

On towers see also: Nada Grujić, "Dubrovnik - Pustijerna. Istraživanja jednog dijela povijesnog tkiva grada", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 10 (1986), 7-39, here: 14-17; Mladen Ančić, "Ser Ciprijan Zaninov. Rod i karijera jednog splitskog patricija druge polovice XIV. stoljeća", in: *Radovi Zavoda povijesnih znanosti HAZU u Zadru* 39 (1997), 37-80, here: 43-44.

¹¹ Zelić, "Public and private space", 141.

¹² *Thomae Archidiaconi Historia Salonitanorum atque Spalatinorum pontificum*, ed. and trans. Olga Perić, Split 2003, 184-189; Ančić, "Ser Ciprijan Zaninov", 43-46; Nikolić Jakus, "Privately Owned Towers ...", 277-280.

the community, probably the ancestors of the later patrician families,¹⁴ except for the one that was the bishops' property, testifying to the office's importance in early medieval urban society. By the beginning of the 13th century the development of the trade and crafts had brought about significant changes in all aspects of urban life. The most prominent citizens, involved in the trade business themselves, faced the urge to take over and establish a new kind of political control.¹⁵ Their gathering resulted in the creation of the City Council and the institution of a municipal legislation.¹⁶ From then on, the members of the Council have been known as patricians, i.e. urban nobility.¹⁷

[8] The urban government, i.e. the City Council, took charge of the public space thus stopping the process of further private spreading and of joining the blocks: Any kind of building on public (i.e. non-private) streets and squares was prohibited by the communal Statute.¹⁸ Among the changes that are relevant for this research was also the institution of a public notary, providing us with the data necessary for an understanding of the further processes. The notarial records reveal that in the 13th century most towers belonged to the members of distinguished patrician families. By the end of the 15th century many of them had changed their owners and become property of other patrician families, wealthy

¹³ Ančić, "Ser Ciprijan Zaninov", 43-44; Zelić, "Public and private space", 141-142. On the process that led to the consolidation of the city council, see: Ludwig Steindorff, "Stari vijek i novo doba. O formiranju komune na istočnoj obali Jadrana", in: *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* 16 (1986), 141-152.

¹⁴ On patrician lineages see: Mladen Andreis, "Trogirski patricijat u srednjem vijeku", in: *Rasprave iz hrvatske kulturne prošlosti* 2 (2002), 5-210; Mladen Andreis, *Trogirsko plemstvo do kraja prve austrijske uprave u Dalmaciji (1805.)*, Trogir 2006. On the early medieval Trogir urban elite see: Babić, "Zapažanja o trogirskim crkvama ...", 273-301; Ivo Babić, "Montanej samostana sv. Dujma i sv. Nikole iz kraja XII. stoljeća", in: *Benediktinski samostan sv. Nikole u Trogiru. Duhovnost i kultura u okrilju Virgines Dei*, eds. Vanja Kovačić and Jozo Milanović, Trogir 2014, 115-140; Zrinka Nikolić Jakus, "Obitelj dalmatinskog plemstva od 12. do 14. stoljeća", in: *Acta Histriae* 16/1-2 (2008), 59-88, here: 62.

¹⁵ Zelić, "Public and private space", 142.

¹⁶ The preserved communal Statute dates from 1322, although there existed earlier redactions already in the 13th century as its regulations were frequently mentioned in contemporary notarial acts. See: Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), passim, Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), passim, and *Statut grada Trogira / Statuta et reformationes civitatis Tragurij*, trans. and eds. Marin Berket, Antun Cvitanić, and Vedran Gligo, Split 1988.

¹⁷ Zelić, "Public and private space", 142; Andreis, "Trogirski patricijat", 5-30; Andreis, *Trogirsko plemstvo*, 7-116.

¹⁸ Zelić, "Public and private space", 142.

commoners or a Benedictine monastery.¹⁹ However, it is not possible to completely reconstruct all the changes in ownership of the towers during the period in question. What is more, it is not always clear how some of them became someone's property, but the extant data allow this discussion and lead to some hypotheses about the processes that caused the change in the attitude towards medieval towers. It should be said that there is no written evidence of the towers from the time when they were erected and when they were highly significant. Even the oldest among the related documents belong to the period when their decline already started.

Changes in the owners' attitude towards tower houses

[9] In the times when the tower houses were built, this was not just the tower, imposing itself on its surroundings, but the complex in its entirety that represented the power of the lineage. However, the preserved data reveal only one record of a *domus cum curte et turri*.²⁰ It was the brothers from the Lucio patrician lineage, Peter, Francis and Luke, who in 1279 possessed an undivided complex of houses, the court and the tower (fig. 3, no. 5). They had inherited it together with their sister Dobra, who was already married. The Statute required each child, regardless of its gender, to inherit equally.²¹ The intention of leaving the complex undivided, as part of the family property, as a masonry structure that still represented the prominence of the family, can be discerned in Dobra's act renouncing her property rights in her brothers' favour.²²

[10] According to the preserved data the Lucio siblings were the only ones in Trogir who made an effort to keep the complex in its entirety. The question is:

¹⁹ Mladen Andreis, Irena Benyovsky, and Ana Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija Trogira u 13. stoljeću", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 25 (2003), 37-92; Mladen Andreis, Irena Benyovsky Latin, and Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija Trogira u 14. stoljeću", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 33 (2007), 103-192, including the transcriptions of the relevant parts of all the preserved documents which record residential spaces. Ana Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena arhitektura Trogira*, doctoral thesis, University of Zagreb 2010, including the transcriptions of the relevant parts of the 15th-century documents that are preserved and record residential spaces which could be located. These provided evidence which enabled us to establish the location of some of the residential spaces recorded in the 13th- and 14th-century documents as well. On the methodology of locating those spaces, see the above-mentioned literature. On the influence of members of the patrician lineages as the most powerful social group on shaping the high medieval city see also: Irena Benyovsky Latin, *Srednjovjekovni Trogir. Prostor i društvo*, Zagreb 2009, 130-168.

²⁰ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), 207, document no. 76; Andreis, Benyovsky, and Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija", 43.

²¹ *Statut grada Trogira*, L III, c. 5, c. 8, c. 15, c. 17.

²² The document was misinterpreted in Andreis, Benyovsky, and Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija", 54, as pointed out by Nikolić Jakus, "Privately Owned Towers", 290, note 70. See also: Nikolić Jakus, "Obitelj dalmatinskog plemstva", 61-69, especially 66.

What would have happened if that family branch had not become extinct due to their failure to produce heirs? Judging from the practice of other patrician families, their complex would have probably got divided. It seems that in Trogir (in the High and Late Middle Ages) the arrangement of a separate household was a priority for almost every emancipated adult.²³

[11] An example of the process of division and of change in the attitude towards an inherited complex with a tower can be observed through the acts of the members of the Ursus patrician family. At the end of the 13th century Bartholomew Ursus and his sister Gapa owned *pro indiviso* the complex by the eastern city walls (fig. 3, no. 8). Gapa married George, from the patrician family Hvalimir, and had an only son Martinci. After their death, Bartholomew argued with Martinci's widow, Mira, about the property of the Ursus'.²⁴ According to the judicial act of 1329, Bartholomew got a part of the complex consisting of two floors above the storage space that he had already sold, while Mira kept the tower where she had been living – as she testified – with her family for more than forty years. Bartholomew Ursus was, as a matter of fact, never interested in keeping the complex in its entirety, nor did he wish to use the tower, as he had let his sister and her family live in it. The assessment of the entire Ursus property in the city and in the district, which was divided in the trial, implies no symbolic value of the tower: *turris* was just a term that described a type of real estate.

[12] In the case of Bartholomew and Gapa, the complex was divided between the two heirs. The dynamics of the division of the complexes differ by case, i.e. from one patrician family to another. In these partitions, the number of newly made units depended on the number of heirs in every generation, but also on the quantity of the inherited real estate that could comprise houses in other parts of the city. The general tendency among the members of patrician families was to keep the inherited houses and leave them to the next generation. However, these new units could be sold separately or become a dowry, which both resulted in the ownership of members of some other family.

[13] A unique example – where the houses were kept as a property of the members of one patrician lineage for generations – is that of the Andreises. Although not the entire complex remained in their possession,²⁵ they were the owners of its best part still in the 17th century.²⁶ But even the Andreises, who

²³ On patrician families' structure and the emancipation processes see: Zdenka Janeković Römer, *Rod i grad. Dubrovačka obitelj od XIII do XV stoljeća*, Dubrovnik 1994; Nikolić Jakus, "Obitelj dalmatinskog plemstva", 59-88.

²⁴ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1988), 284-298, document no. 99.

²⁵ Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis u Trogiru. Prilog poznavanju romaničke stambene arhitekture", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 31 (2007), 9-28.

²⁶ Cvito Fisković, "Kuća povjesnika Pavla Andreisa u Trogiru", in: *Izdanje Historijskog arhiva u Splitu* 7 (1969), 213-228.

stood out for their persistence in keeping and cherishing the patrimonial houses, changed the attitude towards their towers. In the 13th century they owned houses surrounding a court in the southwestern part of the city, with the tower next to the city wall and another within the block that divided the passage from the court and protected it (fig. 3, nos. 1 and 2). In the late 13th century Desa owned the houses that leaned on the city walls and his brother Marin possessed the remaining buildings, described in the 1272 document as a palace.²⁷ The "palace" was inherited by his three sons: Andreas, Simon and Gausigna, two of whom (Simon and Gausigna) became the proprietors of the towers. In 1320, after the civil unrest, all their real property was confiscated, and the two towers were particularly emphasised in the confiscation act.²⁸ The property was afterwards restituted to the family.²⁹

[14] By the mid-14th century the branches of Simon and Gausigna and of their uncle Desa had been extinct.³⁰ In the late 13th or in the early 14th century the tower next to the city wall lost its importance in the defence of the city (the reasons for this will be discussed later). Afterwards, together with other houses in the southeastern part of the Andreis complex, the tower became a property of the Sobota patrician family. The Sobotas came to Trogir in the late 13th century and shared the same political views with the Andreises.³¹ It is possible that all these reasons – the extinction of the branches, the political views, and the fact that the tower lost its importance – led the Andreises to sell the tower and the adjacent buildings to the Sobotas. However, unfortunately, there is no document to confirm such a hypothesis. That tower was never mentioned again in the documents. The subsequent remodelling led to its almost complete disintegration: Nowadays only the northwestern wall of its original structure survives (fig. 4).³²

²⁷ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), 402, document no. 256; Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), 155-156, document no. 67; Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis", 19.

²⁸ Lucio, *Memorie storiche*, 162. Regarding civil unrest see more in: Nada Klaić, *Povijest grada Trogira. Javni život grada i njegovih ljudi*, Trogir 1985, 214-240, 347-255.

²⁹ DAZd, AT, LXVI/2, f. 42. The document of 1336 recorded the tower of Simon's descendants. Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija", 149, document no. 156; Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis", 16.

³⁰ Andreis, "Trogirski patricijat", 31-38.

³¹ Lucio, *Memorie storiche*, 215; Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis", 20.

³² Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis", 13-16.



4a, 4b Trogir, remains of the Andreis Tower (see fig. 3, no. 2): northwestern wall with a Romanesque window (photograph: Ana Plosnić Škarić)

[15] All the other houses surrounding the court remained in the possession of the descendants of the above-mentioned Andreas. The descendants cherished these houses as a sign of the family tradition, significance and power. In his last will, in 1446, Blaise Andreis even obliged his three sons to continue living together in their grand house (*domus magna*).³³ Such a request could not be found in coeval testaments of members of other patrician families of Trogir. Although it is not possible to determine whether Blaise's sons actually kept the joint household, they most certainly passed their awareness of the symbolic value of the patrimonial houses on to the next generation. It was Blaise's grandson, also named Blaise, who, while rebuilding the main house in the late 15th century and embellishing it with new *gotico fiorito* window frames and early Renaissance fireplaces,³⁴ decided to keep the Romanesque portal on the main facade with the family coat of arms in the lunette – as a symbol of the seniority of the lineage.³⁵

[16] However, the tower that was a part of this grand house – and is still preserved – was never mentioned in the late 14th- and 15th-century documents. Its significance, meanwhile, diminished. Even the elder Blaise, eager to show off the pride that he felt for his real estate, used the modern term *domus magna*. This term was rather frequently recorded during the 15th century. It was always related to a compound of several houses and a court, or at least a part of a court.

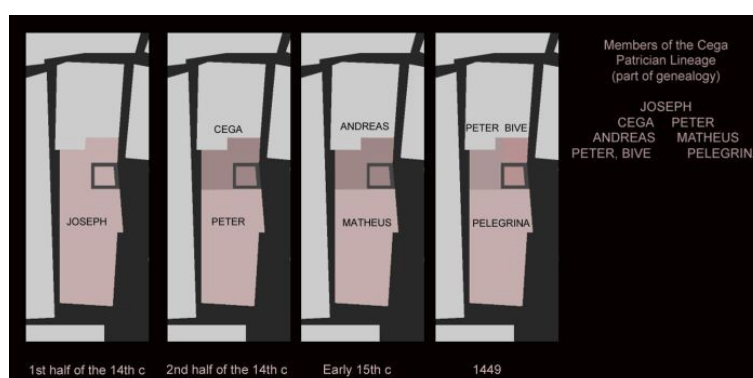
³³ DAZd, AT, XLVI/3, f. 27r and again 40r-40v. Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 140, 282, document no. 54.

³⁴ On the fireplaces see: Cvito Fisković, "O starim dalmatinskim kaminima", in: *Bulletin JAZU* 1/51 (1981), 35-79, here: 55, 68-69; Danko Zelić, "Jakov Florijev, trogirski klesar 15. stoljeća", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 32 (2008), 17-38, here: 20, 32, document no. 47. On other reparations and remodelling see: DAZd, AT, LXVIII/8, f. 186r; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 140, 291, document no. 94.

³⁵ Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis ...", 22.

As a matter of fact, these grand houses were segments of the former complexes. Even when the grand houses included a tower, as is the case with the Andreis', the term *turris* was never applied to them. The change in terminology only followed the change in the attitude towards towers.

[17] The members of the Cega patrician lineage possessed numerous houses in the city, including two complexes with towers: one west of the main square and the other attached to the southern city walls (fig. 3, nos. 4, 10). In the second half of the 14th century two brothers, Peter and Cega,³⁶ were in possession of the two southern thirds of the block at the main square. We assume that they had split the complex that was an entity in the previous generation. Cega's son Andreas had five sons, and in 1449 they divided the inherited property.³⁷ Three of them received houses in other parts of the city, and Peter and Bive split up the central part of the block: Peter got a house, the court and the kitchen westward, and Bive got a house and the tower eastward. The tower is described in the document as a *domus alta*, which means that by the mid-15th century it was perceived as just any other house in the block.



5 Trogir, Cega complex with a tower (see fig. 3, no. 10): division of the real estate, 14th century up to 1449 (© Ana Plosnić Škarić)

[18] Thus the former complex, which had already been split in the 14th century, got divided again in the mid-15th century (fig. 5). Furthermore, the southern part of the block, owned by Peter in the 14th century, and later by his son Matthew, was inherited by the only descendant, his daughter Pelegrina. At the beginning of the 15th century, by marriage, it became the property of another patrician family, the Cippicos.³⁸ The new owners remodelled these houses and mounted reliefs of

³⁶ DAZd, AT, LXXI/1, ff. 9v-10r; Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 178, documents nos. 482 and 483; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 92-93.

³⁷ AHAZU, II-c-70, sv. 1449, ff. 4r-6r. Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 92-93, 283-284, document no. 57.

³⁸ Ivo Babić, "Oporuke Pelegrine, Petra i Koriolana Cipika", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 30 (2006), 29-49.

the Cippicos' coat of arms. Such was the extent of remodelling that in historiography these houses are known as the Cippico Palace. The quality of the architectural decoration arose great interest among art historians.³⁹ It proves that although the towers lost their symbolic value, the very need for using real estate in the city for the sake of demonstrating power has never vanished.

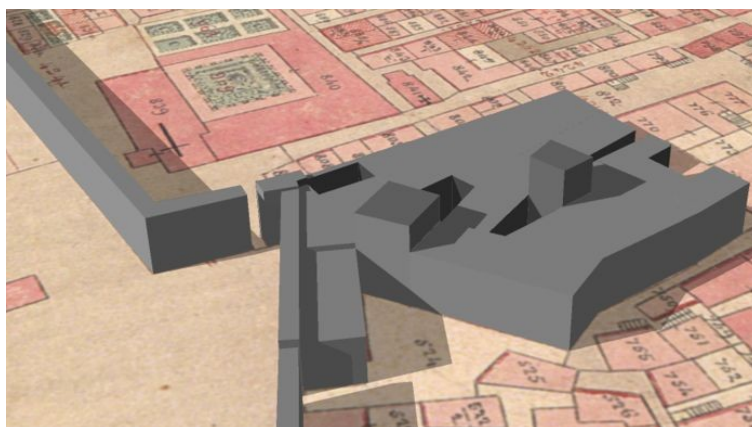
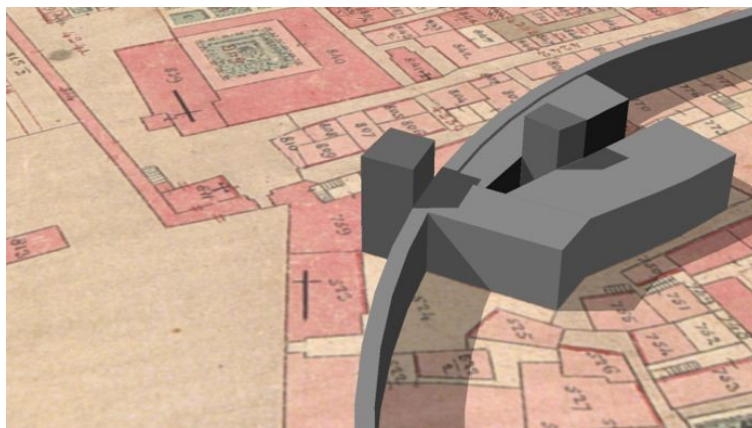
The City Council and the defence system until 1420

[19] During the second half of the 14th century, the Council made considerable efforts to improve the defence system in the southern part of the city as well as to build the walls around the suburb.⁴⁰ Although the suburb walls were completed as late as 1419, it was already obvious that they would be extended much more to the south (in order to enclose the Dominican church) than the existing city walls. Therefore, instead of reinforcing the old ones, the new line of the southern city walls was determined. Its eastern and central parts were built just in front of the old ones, between three private towers that retained their role in the city defence system (fig. 3, fig. 7). However, the western part was erected several metres further to the south, leaving the Andreis tower within the city (fig. 3, no. 2, fig. 6).⁴¹ At the time when it was built it defended the southwestern angle of the city, but after the suburb had developed to the west of it, the tower became useless in that regard. As it was said earlier, it almost completely disintegrated during later remodelling.

³⁹ Petar Kolendić, "Dokumenti o Andriji Alešiju u Trogiru", in: *Arhiv za arbanasku starinu, jezik i etnologiju* II/ 1 (1924), 70-78; Cvito Fisković, "Aleši, Firentinac i Duknović u Trogiru", in: *Bulletin Instituta za likovne umjetnosti JAZU* VII/1 (1959), 20-43, here: 26; Cvito Fisković, "Tri šibenska reljefa Nikole Firentinca", in: *Peristil* 3 (1969), 37-42, here: 39; Cvito Fisković, "Duknovićeva vrata Cipikove palače u Trogiru", in: *Peristil* 10-11 (1967-1968), 51-57; Wart Arslan, "L'architettura gotica civile in Dalmazia dal 1420 al 1520 circa", in: *Rivista dell' Istituto nazionale d'archeologia e storia dell'arte*, n.s. 23-24 (1976-1977), 305-366, here: 334-335; Ann Markham Schulz, *Niccolò di Giovanni Fiorentino and Venetian Sculpture of the Early Renaissance*, New York 1978, 58, 67; Joško Belamarić, "Duknovićev sv. Ivan Evanđelist u kapeli bl. Ivana Trogirskog", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 37 (1997-1998), 15-181, here: 176; Samo Štefanac, *Kiparstvo Nikole Firentinca i njegovog kruga*, Split 2006, 116-117, 152; Ivo Babić, "Južni portal Velike palače Cipiko u Trogiru", in: *Radovi Instituta za povijest umjetnosti* 33 (2009), 67-76; Radoslav Bužančić, *Nikola Ivanov Firentinac i trogirski renovatio urbis*, Split 2012, 129-138.

⁴⁰ Kovačić, "Trogirske fortifikacije", 109-117; Irena Benyovsky Latin, "Izgradnja gradskih fortifikacija u Trogiru od 13. do 15. stoljeća", in: *Zbornik Odsjeka za povijesne znanosti Zavoda za povijesne i društvene znanosti HAZU* 28 (2010), 17-48.

⁴¹ Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis ...", 13-16.



6a, 6b Trogir, development of the Andreis block with towers (see fig. 3, nos. 1 and 2) from the end of the 12th century (above) to the mid-15th century (© Ana Plosnić Škarić)

[20] One of the private towers that remained attached to the new city wall (fig. 3, no. 4, fig. 7, fig. 8)⁴² belonged to Stephen Cega, who was the bishop of the nearby diocese of Hvar and Brač.⁴³ He also possessed an adjacent house

⁴² Architectural drawings of floor plans and facades were published in Marasović, "Stambena kuća ...", 196-197, photo nos. 5, 6.

⁴³ Numerous documents are available regarding this tower. Transcriptions of some of them had been published in Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 461-463; others are preserved in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb as part of the compilation of transcriptions of documents that Lucio made while writing his book, but did not include in the publication, see: AHAZU, *Ostavština Lucius*, VI, ff. 104-106, ff. 123-125. On those preserved within the Trogir communal archive see: DAZd, AT, LXVI/29-II, ff. 31v-32r; DAZd, AT, LXVI/33, f. 44r; DAZd, AT, XLVI/4, ff. 14v-15r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/2, ff. 149v-150v; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, f. 184r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, ff. 184r-184v; AHAZU, II-c-70, sv. 1449, ff. 4r-6r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/6, ff. 30r-31r; DAZd, AT, LXVIII/1, f. 4r. Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 171-175, documents nos. 422, 429, 430; Benyovsky Latin, "Izgradnja trogirskih fortifikacija ...", see 44; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 74-76, 276-288 and again in Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Domus conuentus sancti Nicolai - Kuće samostana svetog Nikole", in: *Benediktinski samostan sv. Nikole u Trogiru. Duhovnost i kultura u okrilju Virgines Dei*, eds. Vanja Kovačić and Jozo Milanović, Trogir 2014, 161-180, here: 174-178, documents nos. 1-5, 7-9, 11-12.

encompassing the kitchen and the court. All these were parts of the already divided Cega complex. In the riot of 1357 Stephen's tower was damaged,⁴⁴ and he was obliged to repair it. In the late 1370s, when the fleet of Genoa was stationed in the Trogir port, just before the war between Venice and Genoa broke out, the repairs of the tower were not yet made. In 1378, the Council decided to allocate three hundred ducats for dismantling and rebuilding the tower.⁴⁵ However, in 1380, as the City Council was unsatisfied with the progress, it signed a new contract with the owner: Stephen renounced all his rights and consigned the tower to the commune whose intention was to undertake the rest of the works.⁴⁶ While this decision clearly reveals the intention to destroy the tower and to build it *ex novo*, the examination of its structure raises certain doubts. The newly built section of the city wall leans on a side façade of the tower closing two Romanesque windows on the first floor. There would have been no logical explanation for their placement had the tower been erected anew. Thus it seems that the City Council, facing the expenses of building the new portion of the southern city walls as well as the walls enclosing the suburb, opted for the repair of the Cega tower.

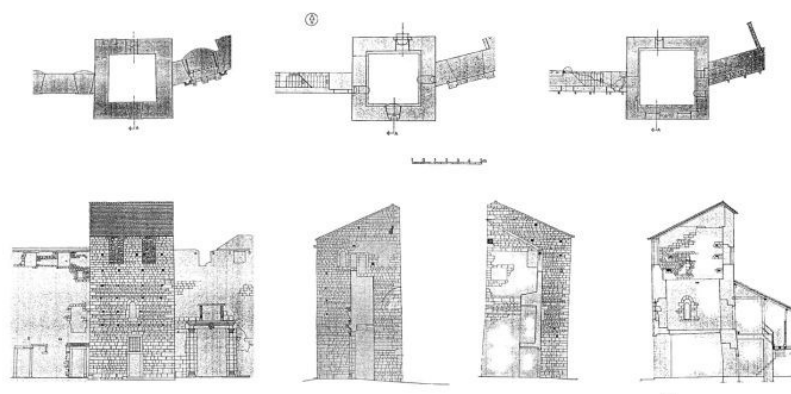


7 Trogir, late medieval city walls with the Cega Tower and the Lucio (13th c.)/ Vitturi (15th c.) Tower (see fig. 3, nos. 4 and 5) (photograph: Ana Plosnić Škarić)

⁴⁴ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 265-270, 461-463; Klaić, *Povijest grada Trogira*, 295-304; Benyovsky Latin, "Izgradnja trogirskih fortifikacija ...", 30, 32-33.

⁴⁵ DAZd, AT, I/6, f. 41v; transcription also in AHAZU, *Ostavština Lucius*, VI, ff. 104-106; Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 171-172, document no. 422.

⁴⁶ AHAZU, *Ostavština Lucius*, VI, ff. 123-125; Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 173, document no. 430.



8 Architectural drawings of the Cega Tower, Trogir: the ground, first and second floor plans, the southern, eastern and western façades and a cross section (made by Đ. Mitrović in Jugoslavenski institut za zaštitu spomenika Beograd, held in Regionalni zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture Split, RST 192-A1, A2, A3, A5, A10, A13/84)

[21] Although the Cega Tower became the property of the commune in 1380, in the early 15th century it was again in private hands. As much as it would seem that the communal possession of a tower would offer advantages to the organization of the city's defence, our reconsideration proves the opposite. Firstly, the City Council had to cope with the organisation of the defence system including the private towers already during the 13th century. A document of 1267 records the distribution of *balliste* among the owners of the towers and houses along the city walls.⁴⁷ The very passage through those houses and towers, as well as through all the complexes along the city wall, had to be accessible during the attacks. Thus owning just the tower – that was accessible only through some other house and the court which remained in Stephen Cega's property – did not, in fact, make much difference. The second reason was the cost of maintenance: the very problem that the Council had been facing since the early 14th century, as shown by the evidence concerning the complex with a tower next to the eastern part of the city fortification (fig. 3, no. 7). Situated between the city walls and the communal palace, north of the Benedictine abbey of Saint John the Baptist, the complex must have been built, like others, by the members of some prominent family before the beginning of the 13th century (fig. 3, no. 7).

[22] In the eighth decade of the 13th century the commune possessed a house at the main square and decided to purchase the adjacent buildings.⁴⁸ After an agreement had been signed with the local church representatives, the nearby church of Saint Stephen was pulled down and the building of a communal palace

⁴⁷ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1951), 34, document no. 48; Andreis, Benyovsky, and Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija", 55.

⁴⁸ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), 38, document no. 52, and 8-11, documents nos. 16, 20, 21, 22.

began.⁴⁹ Shortly afterwards, the complex with the tower situated to the east of the palace became the property of the commune. There is no written evidence which would explain how exactly this transaction was carried through. At the time it certainly seemed like a good decision, but, as a matter of fact, it turned out to be a burden. In 1315, when the city was threatened from the hinterland, the monastery of the Friars minor, built in the immediate vicinity of the city, had to be abandoned, and the friars were sheltered on the island, within the city walls.⁵⁰ The Council offered them the complex with a tower as a permanent residence, but they politely refused saying that they had no interest in a palace with many houses, because a modest residence would meet all their needs, and above all they had no interest in the tower, the purpose of which was to serve for the protection of the whole community, describing the building as old and deserted.⁵¹ Therefore, an entire complex with no inhabitants who would care about its maintenance was a serious problem.

[23] The tower was mentioned again in the archival records at the beginning of the 15th century, as a Benedictine abbey tower. In 1403 the abbot was obliged to repair it, and if he refused, the City Council was prepared to cover the costs.⁵² In 1409 the abbot was again obliged to arrange walkways on top of the city wall,⁵³ which probably included the passage through the tower as well. In 1424 the tower was mentioned as *turris communis (...)* aut *turris Abbatie*.⁵⁴ Obviously, the Council reached a certain agreement with the Benedictines, allowing them to use the buildings and asking them to cover the expenses of their maintenance, while the tower still remained in communal property. The agreement must have resembled the long-term lease-contracts regarding the row of houses spreading along the street south of the communal palace. These contracts had been concluded and extended by the representatives of the City Council and the abbots since the late 13th century.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), 438-439, document no. 328.

⁵⁰ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 153-155; Milan Ivanišević, "Nestajanje najstarijega hrvatskog franjevačkog mjesta u Trogiru", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 39 (2001-2002), 149-185, here: 150-151; Klaić, *Povijest grada Trogira*, 214-228; Benyovsky Latin, *Srednjovjekovni Trogir*, 231.

⁵¹ Daniele Farlati, *Illyricum sacrum*, vol. IV, Venice 1769, 373.

⁵² Franjo Rački, "Notae Joannis Lucii", in: *Starine JAZU* 13 (1881), 211-268, here: 258.

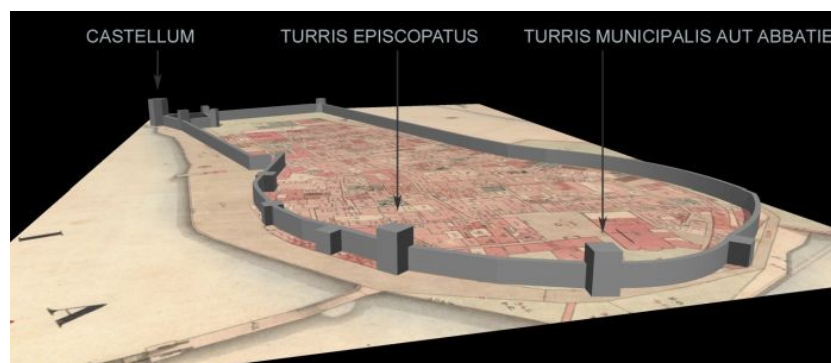
⁵³ Rački, "Notae Joannis Lucii", 264.

⁵⁴ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 471.

⁵⁵ On the document of 1272 see: Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), 439, document no. 329; on the document of 1330 see: Farlati, *Illyricum sacrum*, 375-376; on the document of 1416 see: Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Graditelji Trogira od 1420. do 1450. godine", in: *Ars Adriatica* 4 (2014), 173-198, here: 177; see also: Benyovsky Latin, *Srednjovjekovni Trogir*,

Changes under Venetian rule

[24] In 1420, after a short siege and a strong attack, Trogir was conquered by the Venetian fleet.⁵⁶ During the attack, many buildings, including the communal palace and the cathedral, were damaged. The new regime had to protect the city against threats from the outside – but even more from within, since many of its opponents still lived in Trogir. The Venetians built the citadel for the captain and soldiers in the southwestern part of the island, ordered the demolition of the wall between the city and the suburb to have full control of Trogir,⁵⁷ and remodelled the communal palace both to present the glory of the Serenissima as well as to secure the building against riots and even to arrange an escape route for the count.⁵⁸ The Venetians also decided to support the repair of the abbey's and the bishop's towers.⁵⁹ However, they refused to cover the repair costs of the private towers and ordered that their upper parts, rising above the city walls, be demolished.⁶⁰ The nature of the defence system thus changed, relying only on the fortifications that were controlled by public institutions (fig. 9).



9 Trogir, towers attached to the city walls around the mid-15th century: the Bishop's Tower and the Municipal/ Abbey Tower (see fig. 3, nos. 6 and 7), and the citadel built after the Venetian takeover (© Ana Plosnić Škarić)

51.

⁵⁶ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 245-324; Klaić, *Povijest grada Trogira*, 359-370.

⁵⁷ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 468-473; Irena Benyovsky, "Urbane promjene u Trogiru u prvim desetljećima mletačke vlasti (1420-1450)", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 23 (2002), 71-86; Kovačić, "Trogirske fortifikacije ...", 112-128; Vanja Kovačić, "Gradski kaštel u Trogiru - Prilog proučavanju fortifikacija ranog XV. stoljeća", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 42 (2011), 95-120.

⁵⁸ Plosnić Škarić, "Graditelji Trogira", 178-179.

⁵⁹ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 471.

⁶⁰ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 469.

[25] Venetian rule brought about changes in society and accelerated the process of the rise of commoner families. The effective power of the patricians and the City Council was at the same time gradually waning: any important Council's decision had to be approved in Venice.⁶¹ It was not only the patricians, but also the commoners who sent their commissioners to Venice, negotiating for their benefits.⁶² The most prominent among the commoners gathered in the respectable Fraternity of the Holy Spirit.⁶³ Its members were craftsmen of various professions and merchants. As their wealth increased, they became the owners of numerous houses in the city.⁶⁴ Some of these houses were, in fact, parts of the former complexes with towers.

[26] In the second decade of the 15th century Matica, the daughter of Michael, was in possession of the former Stephen Cega tower, court and adjacent house (fig. 3, no. 4, fig. 7, fig. 8).⁶⁵ Matica was definitely not a member of any patrician lineage of Trogir, but probably came from some prominent commoner's family. She was married twice, but never lived in these buildings. Both husbands managed the estate on her behalf. From 1417 to 1450, the buildings were continuously hired out. Having lost his interest in the tower after the damage of 1420,⁶⁶ the first tenant, Mark, a dyer,⁶⁷ bought some neighbouring houses.⁶⁸ New

⁶¹ Maja Novak, *Autonomija dalmatinskih komuna pod Venecijom*, Zadar 1965; Marko Šunjić, *Dalmacija u 15. stoljeću*, Sarajevo 1967; Tomislav Raukar, "Komunalna društva u Dalmaciji u XV st. i u prvoj polovini XIV st.", in: *Historijski zbornik* 35 (1982), 43-118; Reinhold C. Mueller, "Aspects of Venetian Sovereignty in Medieval and Renaissance Dalmatia", in: *Quattrocento Adriatico*, ed. Charles Dempsy, Florence 1994, 29-57; Monique O'Connell, *Men of Empire: Power and Negotiation in Venice's Maritime State*, Baltimore 2009.

⁶² Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 445.

⁶³ Irena Benyovsky Latin, "Uloga bratovštine Sv. Duha u Trogiru u srednjem i novom vijeku", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 32 (2007), 25-61.

⁶⁴ Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Real Property of Wealthy Commoners: The Formation and Rise of Commoner Lineages in Trogir after 1420", in: *Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages: Authority and Property*, eds. Irena Benyovsky Latin and Zrinka Pešorda Vardić, Zagreb 2014, 349-376.

⁶⁵ Plosnić Škarić, "Real Property of Wealthy Commoners", 359-360.

⁶⁶ On the request for the support of repairs see: Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 469.

⁶⁷ On the renting contract of 1417 see: DAZd, AT, LXVI/29-II, ff. 31v-32r. Plosnić Škarić, "*Domus conuentus sancti Nicolai*", 174, document no. 1. On the renting contract of 1418 see: Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 469. The second one limits the use of the court.

⁶⁸ These houses were also parts of the former Cega complex. They are named as adjacent buildings in the above-mentioned document recording the division of the Cega brothers in 1449, see: AHAZU, II-c-70, sv. 1449, ff. 4r-6r. Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 283-

lease agreements included an obligation to repair the tower in exchange for a lower rent.⁶⁹ In 1450, Matica and her husband, who were, meanwhile, facing financial problems, mortgaged the property in the form of a purchase agreement and the "buyer" continued to rent it.⁷⁰ None of the tenants and neither the "buyer" was a member of some patrician family. The purchase agreement was cancelled three years later. In 1455, having used the same formula, the owners signed a new contract with the abbess of the nearby Benedictine nunnery of Saint Nicolas.⁷¹ They mortgaged the tower separately, but at a higher price. They never redeemed it and it has remained a property of the Benedictine nuns until the present day.

[27] The patricians' loss of interest in towers and adjacent buildings during the first half of the 15th century can be discerned in the archival data related to another complex in the southern part of the city (fig. 3, no. 3, fig. 10), recorded at the beginning of the 13th century as belonging to Drusimir Vitturi's family.⁷² His great-grandchildren died without descendants,⁷³ but the members of another branch of the lineage remained in possession of the major part of the building structures.⁷⁴ They never lived there nor did they care for routine maintenance. In the fourth decade of the 15th century, the owners started selling or renting the buildings out. Andreas Rosani, a communal interpreter already in possession of

284, document no. 57.

⁶⁹ DAZd, AT, LXVI/33, f. 44r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, f. 184r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, ff. 184r-184v. Plosnić Škarić, "*Domus conuentnus sancti Nicola*", 174-177, documents nos. 2, 7, 8.

⁷⁰ DAZd, AT, LXVII/6, ff. 30r-31r; DAZd, AT, LXVIII/1, f. 4r. Plosnić Škarić, "*Domus conuentnus sancti Nicola*", 177-178, documents nos. 11, 12.

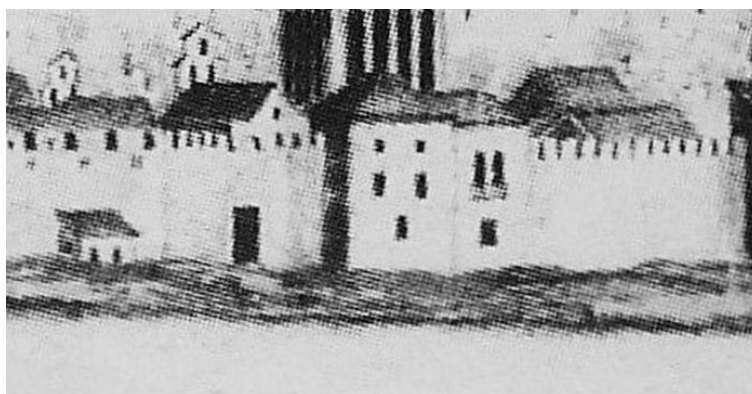
⁷¹ The document is preserved within the Benedictine nunnery archive, see: Vanja Kovačić, *Samostan sv. Nikole u Trogiru – razvoj jugoistočnog dijela grada*, doctoral thesis, University of Zagreb 2012, 169-171.

⁷² Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), 192-193, document no. 17; Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), 183, 189, documents nos. 12, 109; Ivo Babić, "Trogirski knez Ilija i njegova žena Stana", in: *Zbornik Tomislava Marasovića*, eds. Ivo Babić, Ante Milošević, and Željko Rapanić, Split 2002, 376-393; Andreis, Benyovsky, and Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 44, 55-56.

⁷³ Andreis, "Trogirski patricijat", 112-118.

⁷⁴ For the 14th century see: Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 144, 511; Karbić and Ladić, "Oporuke stanovnika ...", 177-178, document no. 9; DAZd, AT, LXVI/12, f. 20v; Andreis, Benyovsky Latin, and Plosnić Škarić, "Socijalna topografija", 135, 158, documents nos. 5, 276. For the 15th century see: Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 464; DAZd, AT, LXVII/1, f. 4r; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, ff. 60v-61r; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 118-119, 277-278, 280-281, documents nos. 27, 43.

several houses in the city, bought one of the houses of the former complex.⁷⁵ He not only repaired it, but also embellished it with a three-bay window made in the most prominent masonry workshop in Trogir.⁷⁶ The wealthy commoners, like Rosani, had commenced to purchase houses in the city and also to embellish their façade with new architectural decoration displaying their families' coats of arms just as patricians did.



10 Detail of Giuseppe Juster's view of the city of Trogir (as fig. 1): the Vitturi Tower at the southwestern city walls (fig. 3, no. 3)

[28] But the commoners' interest in purchasing the buildings of the former complexes was not only, as it was in Rosani's case, for the purpose of having a beautiful house in the city that would demonstrate both the wealth and the prominence of the *nouveau-riche*. Some used them simply for the purpose of their craft. Thus the buildings that had no direct access to public space assumed a new economic function. As already mentioned, Mark, the dyer, rented the former Cega tower, and it was there that he established a dye manufacturing workshop. In 1435 the tower of the Vitturi family (fig. 3, no. 3; fig. 10) and some adjacent houses were rented by a certain Cyprian *pro faciendo ibidem tinctoria*.⁷⁷ Numerous archival sources testify to the rise of the craft of dyeing in Trogir in the 15th century. It was only commoners who were involved in the business. The patricians were traditionally engaged in commerce and in managing their assets in the city and its district. Along with those on the northern coast of the island of

⁷⁵ Plosnić Škarić, "Real Property of Wealthy Commoners", 355-356.

⁷⁶ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 121, 185-186.

⁷⁷ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 280-281, document no. 43. On Lucio's interpretation of the 16th century documents, see: Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 463-465 and Juster's city view (fig. 1, fig. 10); to the east of the Vitturi Tower there was another house that was also partly in front of the city walls and probably one of the tower houses, see: Cvito Fisković, "Lučićeva rodna kuća", in: *Zbornik Historijskog instituta Jugoslavenske akademije posvećen I. Luciusu-Lučiću povodom 300-godišnjice djela "De Regno Dalmatiae et Croatiae"*, Zagreb 1969, 45-60, here: 46-50; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 118-119.

Čiovo, two dye workshops were set up in the medieval towers in the southern part of the city. The vicinity of seawater and a constant stream of water in the canal between Trogir and Čiovo were crucial to their location. The business turned out to be fairly lucrative as we can see from the example of two Salamonich brothers: They became the proprietors of a compound of houses and a court in the southwestern part of the main square. Moreover, they engaged some excellent stonemasons to redecorate it, and they referred to it – just as patricians did – as their *domus magna*.⁷⁸ It is difficult to assess how wealthy Mark, the dyer, became, but he certainly possessed a house in the former Cega complex. He was also highly respected by his fellow citizens, and was elected headmaster of the Trogir Fraternity of the Holy Spirit; as such he was even portrayed in its *Matricula* (register).⁷⁹

[29] Therefore, the social structure of the owners and the residents of the buildings and private towers along the southern city walls changed significantly. Furthermore, the defensive function of the towers, already diminished in the first half of the 15th century, became obsolete in the second half of the century due to the development of artillery weapons. Military threats caused by the rise of the Ottoman Empire additionally prompted the modernization of the fortifications; the first efforts in that regard were made in the eighth decade of the 15th century. We believe that future archaeological research will prove that the new round tower, which was erected by the eastern city walls, was built on the site of the yet unidentified tower of the Ursus family (fig. 3, no. 8) that had been mentioned in the archival sources.⁸⁰ The Venetians must have ordered that the tower be vacated for another house in the city (as it had been done during the building of the citadel)⁸¹ and dismantled to erect a modern cylindrical one. None of the further improvements of the city fortification included any of the old private towers neither the municipal or the bishop's. The northern fortifications became essential, and they resisted the expected military attacks from the hinterland. Another modern cylindrical tower was also built in the northwestern angle of the island and the northern city walls were reinforced by an escarpment.⁸² Further

⁷⁸ Plosnić Škarić, "Real Property of Wealthy Commoners", 368-369; Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Arhitektonska plastika Male palače Cippico u svjetlu novih arhivskih spoznaja", in: *Giovanni Dalmata e le opere della sua cerchia*, ed. Igor Fisković, Split (forthcoming).

⁷⁹ Cvito Fisković, "Neobjavljeno djelo Blaža Jurjeva u Stonu", in: *Prilozi povijesti umjetnosti u Dalmaciji* 13 (1961), 114-132, here: 128; Milan Pelc, "Portreti u hrvatskoj slikarskoj baštini kasnoga srednjeg vijeka i renesanse", in: *Renesansa i renesanse u umjetnosti Hrvatske*, eds. Predrag Marković and Jasenka Gudelj, Zagreb 2008, 51-68, here: 59.

⁸⁰ On the new Malipiero Tower see: Kovačić, "Trogirske zidine ...", 130-131; Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 172.

⁸¹ Benyovsky, "Urbane promjene u Trogiru", 81.

⁸² Kovačić, "Trogirske fortifikacije", 128-134; Zelić, "Jakov Florijev", 18-20.

improvements were subsequently made,⁸³ and since the Ottoman threat lasted for centuries, the modernization of the fortifications resulted in the building of bastions during the 17th century.⁸⁴ They were also designed to protect the city from the north. The old towers attached to the southern and southeastern city walls – despite their being obsolete – remained the only protection of these parts of the city. Therefore, they are marked on every old city map (for example fig. 2).

Remodelling of the tower houses in the Early Modern Period

[30] The permanent state of war during the 16th and the 17th centuries led to extreme poverty, which was, on the other hand, the main reason for the conservation of the medieval urban tissue as well as the houses. An analysis of the architectural decoration of the towers preserved in the urban area offers additional information for the study of their decline.

[31] One tower was erected on the *cardo minor* thus turning a part of it into a private court of a building complex (fig. 3, no. 11).⁸⁵ The members of the Vitturi lineage were probably in possession of the complex for centuries. In the mid-15th century its northern part was recorded as Blaise Vitturi's *domus magna*, and his brother's property spread to the south of it.⁸⁶ It, most likely, included the tower, although there is no record of it in the preserved source material. However, in the early 18th century the Paitoni family came into possession of the tower and the surrounding buildings.⁸⁷ Having recently moved to the city, they undertook considerable remodelling. The structure of the tower walls indicates that they were rebuilt, and the facades got plain rectangular window frames, typical of the 17th and the following centuries. On the top floor of the tower, i.e. the 6th, emerged a modest loggia with large rectangular openings.

[32] A tall house in the southwestern part of the city has similar simple rectangular windows.⁸⁸ It features prominently over a passage that leads further into the block and ends at the main entrance of a complex of houses with a court that also used to belong to the members of the Vitturi patrician lineage (fig. 3,

⁸³ Ivo Babić, "Stari trogirski mostovi", in: *Luke istočnog Jadrana. Zbornik Pomorskog muzeja Orebić* 1 (2006), 155-182, here: 155-168; Žmegač, *Bastioni jadranske Hrvatske*, 47-48.

⁸⁴ Žmegač, *Bastioni jadranske Hrvatske*, 102-106, 186-187; Žmegač, "Dva prikaza trogirskih utvrda", 297-305.

⁸⁵ Ivo Babić, "Trogirska barokna palača zvana Paitunova kuća", in: *Godišnjak zaštite spomenika kulture Hrvatske* 17 (1991), 75-89, here: 87.

⁸⁶ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 70-71, 276-277, documents nos. 68, 69.

⁸⁷ Babić, "Trogirska barokna palača", 75-89.

⁸⁸ I owe gratitude to Professor Babić for drawing my attention to this tower.

no. 3). Originally, this complex could have had two towers, just like that of the Andreis family.

[33] There was also a loggia, similar to that of the Paitoni tower, on the top of the preserved Andreis tower (fig. 3, no. 1), but other levels were remodelled as well (fig. 11).⁸⁹ Since the early 14th century, the main tendencies in remodelling bigger and more opulent houses had been the introduction of a porch in the court and the desire to arrange an intimate but still airy and luminous space.⁹⁰ Thus the Andreis family also decided to create a porch, converting the ground floor façade of their tower. In the 16th century, while redecorating some other houses, they installed a Renaissance window on the second floor of its northwestern façade, and again, in the 18th century, a balcony with a balustrade on the first floor. Due to remodelling the tower's former defensive function was no longer discernible.



11 Remodelling of the Andreis Tower, Trogir (fig. 3, no. 1): a) southeastern façade with the mid-14th c. porch and the 17th c. windows and loggia, and northeastern façade with a Romanesque door that used to connect the tower and the main house on the second floor level; b) porch capital; c) northwestern façade with 18th c. balcony (© Ana Plosnić Škarić)

[34] The tower that was built on the *decumanus minor* joined two antique blocks (fig. 3, no. 10). In the mid-15th century it was inherited by Bive Cega. He replaced some old windows with a modern three-bay one.⁹¹ It must have been installed on the first floor and much later, probably in the 18th century, moved to the top (fig. 12).

⁸⁹ Plosnić Škarić, "Blok Andreis", 15-16.

⁹⁰ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 153, 159-167.

⁹¹ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 105, 185-186.



12 a) Trogir, the Cega (Bive) Tower at the main square (fig. 3, no. 10); b) remains of the mid-15th c. three-bay window (photographs: P. Mofardin)

[35] Both the tower and Bive's house had shops on their ground floors, like all other houses facing the square and along the main streets. Even the oldest among the preserved archival sources record merchants' and craftsmen's activity as well as numerous shops and storage spaces in the city.⁹² Those were arranged on the ground floors of the already existing houses as well and were provided with a direct access to public spaces. As the shops and storage spaces were independent of the residential floors above them, they used to be hired out or even sold separately. Some of them – like those in the southern part of the former Cega complex at the main square – still have Romanesque door frames.⁹³ The shops in Bive's house and tower are recorded in a late 14th century document, but their position by the square indicates that they must have been there much earlier. Nowadays they have plain rectangular door frames, probably installed in the 19th century.

[36] The tower in the northern part of the city, by the street leading towards the suburb, was probably built to protect the main entrance to a complex of the distinguished Casotti lineage (fig. 3, no. 9).⁹⁴ Its ground floor was also used as a shop or storage space. Even today the tower has a separate entrance to the ground floor. A narrow external staircase leads from the street to the entrance on the first floor, enabling the separation of the residential spaces. The same solution was used in most medieval houses in Trogir.

⁹² See Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1948), passim; Barada, *Trogirski spomenici* (1950), passim; Andreis, Benyovsky, and Plosnić, "Socijalna topografija ...", 47-48; Irena Benyovsky, "Gospodarska topografija Trogira u srednjem vijeku", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 28 (2005), 23-44.

⁹³ Fisković, "Romaničke kuće", 172-173, house no. 12.

⁹⁴ Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 110-111.



13 a) Trogir, the Lucio 13th c. / Vitturi 15th c. Tower at the southern city walls (fig. 3, no. 5); b) a trefoil-shaped arched window from the second half of the 14th century (photographs: Ana Plosnić Škarić)

[37] The analysis of the remodelling of the towers that are preserved in the urban area proves that since the 13th century they had been perceived, remodelled and used just like all other houses. Furthermore, it explains the absence of records mentioning *turres* in the inner part of the city in the preserved archival sources. The term *turris* was, from the 13th century onwards, obviously used only when it described a type of building that had a defensive function, exactly the one that they all had already lost. Only the similar structures along the city walls were still recorded as *turres*, and the term remained in use despite the fact that their defensive role gradually diminished. Furthermore, it prompts the question whether there had been more similar towers in the city, particularly as part of the structures that most certainly derived from large complexes (like those on the northern and southwestern side of the main square).⁹⁵ The towers that possibly underwent several processes of remodelling might not necessarily be recognisable today. One of the towers attached to the city wall was also remodelled (fig. 3, no. 5; fig. 13). Its two older, Romanesque window frames, placed in the middle of the southern facade on the first and the second floors, were replaced in the late 14th century by the more modern ones with trefoil-shaped arches.⁹⁶ Since the openings were not large, the change did not affect its defensive role. Although the upper floors had to be demolished after 1420, they were built again during the 16th century.⁹⁷ Their large rectangular windows and a balcony with a balustrade facing south clearly indicate the consciousness of the owners of the tower regarding its obsolescence and failure to protect the city. The

⁹⁵ Ana Plosnić Škarić, "Sklop kuća Stipošević u Trogiru", in: *Peristil* 56 (2013), 37-48; Plosnić Škarić, "Arhitektonska plastika Male palače Cippico ...", (forthcoming).

⁹⁶ Plosnić Škarić, "*Domus conuentus sancti Nicolai*", 164.

⁹⁷ Ivo Babić, *Trogir*, Split 2016 (forthcoming).

complex consisting of the tower with a court and adjacent buildings – which was, in the late 13th century, the property of the Lucio family, and afterwards of the Vitturi,⁹⁸ – in the late 17th century came into the possession of the Benedictine nunnery of Saint Nicolas,⁹⁹ the same monastic community that had already purchased the former Cega tower.

Changes after 1797

[38] Further changes occurred after the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797, when the French ordered that the fortifications be dismantled, and the process continued under the rule of the Austrian Empire.¹⁰⁰ The 1789 list of public buildings still describes the municipal tower – as a *torrione* in poor condition (fig. 3, no. 7).¹⁰¹ However, the cadastral plan of 1830,¹⁰² which recorded the fortifications that had not been yet demolished, shows no trace of it. In contrast to the already dismantled municipal tower, the episcopal palace and its tower are clearly visible (fig. 3, no. 6).¹⁰³ The old photograph of the tower shows that it was built of large carved stone, probably taken from the antique city walls and reused.¹⁰⁴ It is the only tower whose inner spaces were mentioned: It had a small reception room (*saleta turris episcopatus*),¹⁰⁵ probably on the first floor, in which the bishop's court would occasionally reside,¹⁰⁶ and a chamber¹⁰⁷ with the bed on

⁹⁸ DAZd, AT, LXVII/2, f. 130v; DAZd, AT, LXVII/3, f. 65v. Plosnić Škarić, "*Domus conuentus sancti Nicolai*," 162-163, 175-176, documents nos. 4, 6.

⁹⁹ Darka Bilić, "Prilozi o baroknoj crkvi i samostanu sv. Nikole", in: *Benediktinski samostan sv. Nikole u Trogiru. Duhovnost i kultura u okrilju Virgines Dei*, eds. Vanja Kovačić and Jozo Milanović, Trogir 2014, 201-212, here: 208-210; Babić, *Trogir* (forthcoming).

¹⁰⁰ Beritić, "Obalna utvrđenja na našoj obali", 241.

¹⁰¹ Irena Benyovsky, "Popis javnih zgrada u Trogiru 1789. godine", in: *Povijesni prilozi* 29 (2005), 191-210, here: 203.

¹⁰² Irena Benyovsky, *Trogir u katastru Franje I*, Zagreb 2005, see the map.

¹⁰³ Benyovsky, *Trogir u katastru Franje I*, see: the map and cadastral no. 446. The ground floor plan is in: Iveković, *Dalmatiens Architektur und Plastik*, 10.

¹⁰⁴ The photograph is published in Kovačić, "Nuove scoperte nella Tragurion ellenistica", photo no. 2.

¹⁰⁵ In 1462: "saleta turris episcopatus", DAZd, AT, II/22, f. 4v. Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 62.

¹⁰⁶ Lucio, *Memorie storiche ...*, 239.

¹⁰⁷ In 1471: "camera turris episcopatus", DAZd, AT, II/35, f. 9r. Plosnić Škarić, *Gotička stambena ...*, 62.

the upper floor.¹⁰⁸ The palace, as a residence of the bishops of Trogir, retained its function from the early medieval times until 1828, when the diocese was abolished. Afterwards it was used as District Court, and in the late 19th century, as it needed extensive repairs, it was dismantled and a new building was erected in its location.¹⁰⁹

[39] The 19th century owner of the former Vitturi complex that was attached to the western part of the southern city walls (fig. 3, no. 3) decided to create a modern, but yet quite modest, south façade. To accomplish it, he destroyed the southern wall of the tower as well as all its upper parts.¹¹⁰

[40] Therefore, the only two preserved old towers out of seven that used to stand immediately at the city walls are those that became the property of the Benedictine nunnery of Saint Nicolas (fig. 7). The nunnery was founded in 1064 next to the church of Saint Nicolas, and over the centuries it came into the possession of the nearby buildings. The entire complex is still owned by the nunnery – as well as the two old towers. Meanwhile, these towers were provided with direct entrances from the south, i.e. from the public space outside the city walls, and nowadays their ground floors are rented out and used as shops.

To summarize

[41] The large complexes with towers left a significant mark on the urban tissue of the medieval *civitas* of Trogir, and defined the very dividing line between private and public spaces that have mostly remained unchanged until the present day. Their structure met the needs of their owners at the time when they were built. As such, they were inherited by later generations who had to find ways of fulfilling their own needs in these solid masonry structures.

[42] The 19th century efforts to modernize the city were the final phase of the decline of the towers. Major changes already occurred during the 13th century: With the development of the trade and crafts, the consolidation of the City Council, and the creation of a municipal legislation, the defensive function of the towers in the inner urban area was perceived as no longer necessary. The towers attached to the city walls had been gradually losing this function until the mid-15th century. For precisely the same reasons, in the 13th century, the ground floors of the towers in the urban area got separated from the residential upper floors and were provided with direct entrances to the public spaces in order to be used as shops or storage spaces. Most other towers attached to the city walls were gradually performing the new economic function as well. In the 13th century the desire for living in separate households and separate houses prompted the

¹⁰⁸ The bed is recorded as a donation in the last will of Bishop Nicholas Casotti in 1371, see: Karbić and Ladić, "Oporuke stanovnika ...", 208; see also: Ivo Babić, "Trogirski biskup Nikola Casotti (†1371) i njegovo doba", in: *Starohrvatska prosvjeta* III/37 (2010), 219-245.

¹⁰⁹ Stanko Piplović, *Graditeljstvo Trogira u XIX. stoljeću*, Split 1996, 101-105, 150.

¹¹⁰ Fisković, "Lučićeva rodna kuća", 46.

division of large complexes with towers into smaller units or compounds. Along with these processes, the towers lost their symbolic value and began to be regarded as all other real estates. It was their economic function – along with the residential one that has not changed since the times when the towers were built – that was the key to the preservation of a few towers, although only by undergoing subsequent remodelling.

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